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REFERENCE: ATTACHMENT TO L-2298
18 November 1966
Page 1ROAD CONSTRUCTION
NORTH VIETNAM/CHINA BORDER AREA
NORTH VIETNAM1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS ROAD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN THE NORTH VIETNAM/CHINA BORDER AREA EAST OF LANG SON.

2. BACKGROUND:

COLLATERAL REPORTS A GREAT CONCENTRATION OF BORDER CROSSINGS INTO CHINA FROM NORTHEASTERN NORTH VIETNAM. THE FOUR MAIN BORDER CROSSINGS IN THIS AREA ARE SINGLE-LANE IMPROVED ROADS AND PROCEED TO THE CHINESE CITIES OF PING-HSING, LUNG-CHING, CHING-HSI, AND MU-DIEN. IN THE AREA NORTH AND EAST OF CAO BANG, (2240N 10616E) THERE IS A MAZE OF INTERCONNECTED ROADS AND TRAILS. MOST OF THIS SYSTEM ONLY SERVES THIS PART OF NORTH VIETNAM AND IS NOT DESIGNED FOR HEAVY TRAFFIC. THE MAIN ROADS IN THIS BORDER REGION HAVE BEEN WELL MAINTAINED AND THEY HAVE WIDE HIGH-CAPACITY BRIDGES. THESE ROADS APPEAR CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING HEAVY TRAFFIC.

ROUTE 4 IN THIS AREA IS A COASTAL ROAD CONNECTING WITH A ROAD IN KWANTUNG PROVINCE, CHINA, THAT RUNS TO CHAN-CHIANG (FORT BAYARD). IN NORTH VIETNAM THE ROAD WAS OPENED TO TRAFFIC IN 1950 AND WAS IMPROVED FOR THROUGH TRAFFIC WITH COMMUNIST CHINA WHEN THE BRIDGE AT MONG CAI WAS COMPLETED IN 1958. AT TIEN YEN THE MAIN ROAD TURNS WEST AND CONTINUES TO LANG SON, AND ANOTHER ROAD CONTINUES SOUTH TO THE PORT OF HON GAI.

NGA Review Complete

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THE MONG CAI/TIEN YEN SEGMENT PASSES THROUGH AN AREA OF ROLLING PLAINS SITUATED BETWEEN HIGH MOUNTAINS, AND WEST OF TIEN YEN IT BECOMES A MOUNTAIN ROAD.

3. MISSION READOUT:

[REDACTED] REVEALS A PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 4 AT 2132N 10706E (UTM WJ177836) NORTH-NORTHEAST TO THE TERMINUS OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT 2142N 10710E (UTM YK251014), 1.7 NM FROM THE CHINA BORDER.

THE MAJOR PORTION OF THIS ROAD IS IN THE EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION. SMALL PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION CAMPS ARE LOCATED AT 2133N 10707E (UTM YJ198848) AND AT 2136N 10708E (UTM WJ221909) AND CONTAIN A TOTAL OF AT LEAST TEN BUILDINGS AND ONE PROBABLE TRUCK.

HMGAA SITES, THE OCCUPANCY OF WHICH CAN NOT BE DETERMINED, ARE LOCATED AT 2138N 10709E (UTM'S YJ224948 AND YJ226935) AND AT 2133N 10707E (UTM YJ201848).

ALSO OBSERVED ON THE ROAD ARE AT LEAST SEVEN UNIDENTIFIED TRUCKS/PIECES OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.

[REDACTED]

ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS SERIES L701, SHEETS 6475IV AND 6476III.

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